

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Legislative Session

February 13, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman (via telephone), Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson, and Ms. Macklin (via telephone). Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager and Michael Witherel, Borough Solicitor were also present. Ms. Ervin, Ms. Trice, President Cohn (work commitment) and Mayor John Thompson (work commitment) were absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Olaide Ogunyemi - 215 Franklin Ave. – Stated she is a student at California University and is in the process of obtaining a Bachelors Degree in Community Nursing. She is seeking demographic information on Wilkinsburg. She was referred to the Borough website, WCDC website and the US Census Bureau.

Lori Wilson - 810 Mayville St. Pittsburgh, PA 15226 - Inquired as to the Wilkinsburg community's health needs.

Ms. Moore commented on the aging population in the Borough.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2902 – Establishing a Handicap Parking Space – 333 Barnes St.**

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Evans

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

- 2. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 1/2, 1/9 and 1/16/13.**

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Ms. Macklin

Yes: Ms. Goodman, Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans,
Ms. Macklin

Abstain: Ms. Moore (January 9, 2012 Minutes)

Motion carried 5:0 with one abstention

Mr. Lefebvre requested that the minutes of January 2 be checked to confirm those members who participated via telephone connection.

3. Approving January Checks Issued in the amounts as follows:

January Checks Issued 01/01- 01/31, 2013	\$1,123,613.29
Payroll Disbursements	243,962.78
Voided Checks	-0-
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Total Disbursement	\$1,367,576.07

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Evans

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans
No: Ms. Macklin

Motion carried 5:1

**4. Approving Resolution No. 13-018 – Awarding Wood Street Lighting Project
Option III to Allegheny City Electric in the amount of \$29,700.**

Moved: Ms. Goodman

Second: Ms. Evans

Ms. Macklin requested clarification as to the work being performed. Ms. Marcinko advised that the work will be troubleshooting the operational problems with the decorative lighting on Penn Ave and Wood Street with a listing of the problems identified and cost estimates for the repairs. Repairs will be performed on a time and materials basis.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**5. Approving Resolution No. 13-019 – Hiring Jose Jones as a Driver in the
Department of Public Works.**

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 6. Approving Resolution No. 13-020 – Authorizing the use of Municibid for disposal of Borough property.**

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 7. Approving Resolution No. 13-021 – Increasing employee contribution rate – Police Pension Plan effective January 1, 2013 from 5.4% to 6.5%.**

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 8. Approving Resolution No. 13-022 – Tax Collector Exoneration for Year 2012.**

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Ms. Macklin asked if the Borough is improving upon current collections. Ms. Marcinko advised that the delinquent taxes turned over to the delinquent collector is increasing every year. Ms. Marcinko will forward the 2011 figure to Council.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Conveyance of L&B 176-D-296 to Save-A-Lot.**

Ms. Marcinko provided Council with background information and explained why the Borough is considering the property conveyance. Mr. Witherel also confirmed that the property should have been transferred as part of the sales agreement. In response to Ms. Macklin's inquiry, Council was advised that this parcel was included in the original sales agreement.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Macklin

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Witherel provided an update on the Gym of Future Champions property at 710 Swissvale Ave. Mr. Witherel advised that there have been requests for information exchanged with the organization going back several months. Requests were made for verification of tax-exempt status, verification of property insurance, etc. In the process of responding to the requests for

information, the owner indicated his intention to abandon the property. The deed was recorded by Mr. Witherel today.

Ms. Macklin questioned the Borough's efforts to verify tax exempt status of properties in the Borough. Ms. Marcinko commented on the payment in lieu of taxes solicitation to tax-exempt properties and using the undeliverable letters as a starting point for more research. Ms. Macklin asked about reaching out to the County. Ms. Evans commented that the tax-exempt status can be checked on the IRS website. Ms. Macklin suggested recruiting an intern to assist with this effort. Ms. Evans suggested that CONNECT may be able to assist in identifying an intern.

Ms. Moore, Library Board member, provided a report on programs and activities recently sponsored by the Wilkesburg Public Library. Upcoming projects for the WPL were included in Ms. Moore's report. More information can be obtained from the Wilkesburg Public Library Adult Department.

Ms. Marcinko provided an update on the RFP process for delinquent tax collection. Clarification on the contract termination date must be obtained. The current contract expires either in June or December, 2013. Notification to terminate must be provided no sooner than 120 days prior to termination and no less than 60 days. Ms. Marcinko will prepare a draft of an RFP for presentation to Council

Ms. Evans as Executive Director of WCDC provided an update to Council regarding the liquor license referendum which is being proposed to be placed on the ballot for the primary election in May. The petitions will be circulated from February 19, 2013 through March 12, 2013. The WCDC has been recruiting volunteers to help with the initiative. The WCDC posted questions and answers on their website which were raised at the public meeting held in January. A confirmation as to the accuracy of the information was obtained from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. 2,010 are needed to place the question on the ballot. Mr. Lefebvre informed Council that the Planning Commission is currently reviewing the liquor license use for the new zoning ordinance. Ms. Evans informed Council that the Planning Commission and Delta Development are working on zoning issues in Wilkesburg.

Wilbert Wright distributed a newspaper article regarding seizure of police files in the City of Pittsburgh. He spoke to Council about a complaint that the Police Department is not responding to calls for service regarding Community Life. Mr. Wright has an issue with Portnoff Law Associates withholding his money. Ms. Moore commented that no one is questioning his mental health and questioned what happened with Community Life. He commented that he was kidnapped and taken to Western Psychiatric Hospital.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Mr. Lefebvre, second by Ms. Evans the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:46 P.M.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Council Vice-President